

## Tryathlon

There are some students representing our school and participating in the annual Weetbix Tryathlon in Hamilton on Sunday 9 February. All the best and good luck Peta, Alex and Thomas.



## Kick-Start Classes

Kick-Start to School Classes resume on Monday 10 February for the term. Currently we have Aroha Costar joining the team in Kowhai class.

## Classroom Support

Thank you to the parent helpers who regularly joined the junior class to support the programmes in place for our Year 1 & 2 students during previous years. Your support is much appreciated and we will be in contact again when the need arises.

## Thank you

Thank you Ben, Bex, Mitch and Batch for the development of the school frontage. We had a very successful grand opening and blessing on Tuesday.

Our sincere thanks to Alannah and Batch for regularly leading the grounds maintenance teams and working at making our school look great. A fantastic job! Your time was much appreciated by staff over the holidays with help shifting furniture and equipment.

Also, thank you Batch for maintaining the pool and have it up and running for the new school year. Our school is looking wonderful!

Another thank you to Ms Easton, John Fryday, Rob Drew and Monica Clark for working hard at producing wonderful new resourceful seats in the library for the junior children.

## What's Coming Up At Waitomo Caves School



9 February  
10 February  
12 February  
18 February  
26 February

Weetbix Tryathlon  
Kick-Start classes resume  
Parent meeting and BBQ  
Board meeting, 5.30pm  
Small Schools Swimming Sports

Mrs Tamae Dimond  
Principal ☺



# Newsletter

Counter Box 49  
Waitomo Caves

Mobile 027 391 0746

Phone (07) 878 7534  
Fax (07) 878 7219

Whaia te ara totika – Make the Right Choice

Term One 2014

Week One – 7 February

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Whanau and Friends of the School

Tena Koutou Katoa

Greetings and welcome back to a new school year. We extend a very special welcome to our newest student Whitu Barlow, who turned five recently and Katie Townsend who returned from Canada. Welcome Barrie Barlow & Sandra Gerrard and David & Toni Townsend to our parent community, we value your continued support.

We have begun the year with an exciting group of 52 students. Kowhai class consists of 12 Year 1 to 2 students, which is now situated in the Library. Totara class has 19 Year 3 & 4 students located in the old historical building and Kauri class has 21 Year 5 to 8 students in the admin block. Ms Easton will be teaching in Kowhai class, Mr Dimond in Totara, with Mrs Dimond and Mrs Steger in Kauri.

Welcome Rachel Stubbs to our teaching staff. Rachel has begun daily swimming tuition for the whole school and shares her expertise in teaching swimming and water safety skills. We also have available Sport Energize staff concentrating on cricket and fitness skills from week 4.

Later in the year we look forward to Whaea Te Ingo Ngaia's return to support our Te Reo Maori programme and Kapa Haka as part of our Maori Performing Arts programme.

Office administrator/teacher aid Mrs Liz Manning will be working daily, as will



WAITOMO  
GLOW WORM  
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NEW ZEALAND



• Private Bag 501, Otorohanga.

• Telephone (07) 878-8227 • Facsimile (07) 878 8858

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teacher aid Maree Boyle. We also welcome back Mrs Sandra Morgan our faithful cleaner.

Mrs Dimond and whanau are on leave today and Monday to celebrate special family events such as Nana Joan's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and nephew Kade's 21<sup>st</sup> in Invercargill.

### **Waka Opening / Blessing**

It was fantastic to see a great turn out for our waka opening/blessing on Tuesday morning. Thank you Mitch and Ben for organising this distinctive event and sharing your special words and messages. We are extremely grateful for the support received from our community, local business, families and friends, for the contribution given to achieve the vision of upgrading our school frontage in the form of a waka symbolising our learning journey.

Thank you to the following for donation time, materials and equipment to make this happen: Otorohanga Timber, Customtone Kitchens, McIndoe Group, Michael Watson Contracting, Waitomo District Council Creative Community Scheme, McDonalds Lime, Johnson Family, Pauline & Lawrence Holden, Stubbs Family, Hughes Family and Batger/Gibson Families.

### **Parent Meeting**

There is a very important parent meeting scheduled for Wednesday 12 February at 3.15pm. Some items on the agenda include fundraising, sports, school hours, and curriculum areas such as swimming and camp. Please attend, as parents will receive curriculum dates to plan for the year. Teachers will also brief our parent community on routines and procedures within the junior, middle and senior classes.

Following the parent meeting parents and children are asked to stay on for a get together dinner. Sausages and bread will be provided and we invite you to bring along a salad to share.

### **Stationery**

School makes available all the children's stationery requirements for the year. Currently children have temporary pages to work with until stationary invoices are paid for. Invoices were sent home on Tuesday.



### **Swimming**

With the swimming season underway all students will have daily swimming lessons in our school pool. All pupils are expected to participate and parents are asked to send along a note to the teacher if they wish to have their child excused from swimming for health reasons. Swimming attire is very important. Girls should wear a one piece suit and boys short shorts. Big baggy rashies, t-shirts and shorts restrict children from developing correct swimming techniques and buoyancy. Rashies keep the children cold and are only useful for protecting them from the sun. We provide sunscreen that does this job successfully. We also recommend students wear swimming caps to prevent long hair obstructing vision while in the water and goggles are desirable.



### **Learn to Swim Lessons**

Rachel is taking afterschool swim lessons starting week 3, 17 February to 20 March, two lessons a week for five weeks. Maximum number of students per group is four. Beginners 20 minutes Monday and Wednesday's, intermediate 30 minutes Tuesday's and Thursday's, seniors 40 minutes Monday's and Wednesday's. Fees are \$10 per lesson with discount for families with two or more children attending. Payment is due within two weeks of the start of classes. There are some spaces left, contact Rachel on 0273792356 or [tetiro@waitomocavesnz.com](mailto:tetiro@waitomocavesnz.com)

### **Pool Use**

Families who have pool keys are asked to please utilise the pool after 4.15pm on Monday's to Thursday's due to children's private lessons. Thank you for your patience and co-operation.

### **Morning Tea & Lunch**

Children are expected to place things back into their lunch boxes for parents to know what they are or are not eating. This is particularly important to parents of younger students. The duty teacher supervises pupils while they eat their snacks and lunch.

### **Technology 2014**

Year 7 & 8 students have begun manual training on Tuesday's. Children are required to have suitable covered footwear for safety reasons. These students will be involved in curriculum specialist subjects at Otorohanga South Technology Centre which will be every Tuesday afternoon. Seniors will be transported by bus leaving school at 12.30pm and return at 2.50pm.